



# BRANCHES



A Publication of **Muskegon County Cooperating Churches**  
 Convening the Community of Faith  
 to serve the needs of the people of Muskegon County for over 70 years.

**Vol. 40, No. 2**

**March-April Issue**

**2021**

**BRANCHES** is published 6 times a year by **Muskegon County Cooperating Churches (MCCC)**  
 120 W. Apple Avenue, Muskegon 49440

**MCCC** is a non-profit ecumenical organization serving all faith congregations in Muskegon County

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## What's Happening at Cooperating Churches?

### Mobile Food Pantries:

To schedule or for information  
 call Kasey at 231-727-6000.

### Membership Fee:

Please send in your membership fee.  
**Organizations: \$50/Individuals: \$25**  
 Mail in to: MCCC, 120 W. Apple Ave.  
 Muskegon, 49440.

### Weekly Blasts from MCCC:

Every Thursday we will let the churches and faith communities know what is happening in the area. If you are not in our data-base and would love to know, send us a request in an email. If you would like us to advertise your activities please send information to [marxlily@yahoo.com](mailto:marxlily@yahoo.com) or [office.mccc@frontier.com](mailto:office.mccc@frontier.com)

### Inside this edition

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*Gleanings by Tom Wagner*



### Telling the Truth

A light snow is falling again as I write. We just finished a cold snap that drove temperatures down into single digits over several nights and even a few degrees below zero one morning. It's weather I've long associated with west Michigan winters and most of us are prepared for the worst. Our greatest concern has been keeping goats and chickens supplied with water during the bitterest days. Otherwise most of our daily routines remain little changed. For now, winter maintains its frigid grip on our part of the world. However, daylight is growing noticeably longer. Within a few weeks, warmer breezes will breathe life into the landscape and a new growing season will begin.

Lent falls during this annual transition from winter to spring. It can be a season to prepare for spiritual growth. It is a time to look toward resurrection's dawn. Yet we do so walking in the long shadow of the cross. We do not reach that sunrise other than through the path of the shadow. While many people may see this as a solitary journey--focusing on self-examination or self-improvement-- it's important to join hands and walk that walk together. I firmly believe faith is personal, but not private. You and I need each other in our spiritual journeys. Those things that live in my heart at some point will reveal themselves in my life and relationships.

This year, relationships need attention. Many of us have struggled to maintain and strengthen our personal relationships during the epidemic. While many of us have been aware of the growing fissures in our civil society for years, the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup> revealed just how poisonous privileged entitlement can be. Not only media personalities, but also office holders have stoked the fires of fear and hate against our fellow citizens with falsehoods. These same voices have manipulated faith language to rally the mob. Murder is not a Christian value...at least not in the church in which I grew up. As tiresome as it may sound we have to continue speaking the truth in love. We may not remain silent as a way to keep the peace.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote in his "Letter from the Birmingham Jail:

*"We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of men [and women] willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively, and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right."*

Only the truth can bring us together. Only the truth will set us all free.

*Tom Wagner is a former pastor in the Church of the Brethren (Dunker) and serves MCCC as clerk and archivist. He can be contacted at [gleanertw@hotmail.com](mailto:gleanertw@hotmail.com)*



Muskegon County Cooperating Churches would love to hear from you. If you have something you would like to share, please e-mail us at: [marxlily@yahoo.com](mailto:marxlily@yahoo.com) or [office.mccc@frontier.com](mailto:office.mccc@frontier.com) or send it to us in the mail. Please include pictures and/or your organizational logo.



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316 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon, MI, 49440

## March & April Events

### Hackley Public Library -- All events are FREE!

*For more details on programs, or to see additional programs, visit [hackleylibrary.org](http://hackleylibrary.org), HPL's Facebook page, call 231-722-8000, or stop by Hackley Library.*

#### All Ages Programs

#### **The Jim Crow Museum Virtual Tour – Zoom Program**

**1:00 pm, Thursday, March 25**

The Jim Crow Museum virtual tour investigates the history of anti-black caricatures, propaganda, and rhetoric in material and popular culture. These primary sources are used to document and learn from the past.

#### **Job Fair To-Go Bags**

**Available March 1 through March 6**

It's a job fair, but all in a bag you can take home! Hackley Public Library is partnering with Loutit District Library to bring you helpful Job Fair To-Go bags, containing information, resource lists, and worksheets focused on job-searching, skill-building, resume-writing, and overall career-building.

#### Youth Services/ Teen Programs

#### **Take and Make Crafts for Kids and Teens!**

**Instructional videos posted to Facebook**

During March HPL will have Tissue Paper Shamrock kits for youths, as well as Pony Bead Gecko and Owl kits for teens. In April, youths can create Earth Day Turtles and teens can have fun making a Spring Chick Succulent Planter!

#### **Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls!**

**3:00 pm, Thursday, March 18 – Posted to Facebook**

What better way to celebrate Women's History month than with Miss Lydia and Miss Melissa? Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo will be the focus for sharing stories about the amazing women in history and our lives. (cont. on next page)

**Sound off! Poetry Read****3:00 pm, Thursday, April 15 – Posted to Facebook**

Help us celebrate the 25th Annual National Poetry Month with a spirited poetry read by Miss Lydia and Miss Melissa. Hear some oldies but goodies, some rhyming and some not, and some new voices as we explore the fun and importance of poetry!

**Adult Programs****What's It Worth! Appraisal Program – Zoom Program****6:00 pm, Wednesday, April 14**

Author, Auctioneer, Appraiser and Radio show Host Mike Ivankovich will introduce you to “*What Determines Value*”, and will then reveal what YOUR Antiques, Collectibles, and Personal Treasures are really worth today!

<https://www.hackleylibrary.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/HackleyPL>

231-722-8000 (Circulation) | 231-722-8011 (Information Desk) | 231-722-8014 (Youth Services)

**A Virtual Program for the  
Church****Addictions and Recovery**

What might you want to know?

How might you help?

As people of God, what are we called to  
do?

A virtual program for those of us in our various churches who wonder about questions such as these, especially in this time of a pandemic when addiction, and relapsing for people in recovery are at an all time high.

Thursday, April 8, 2021, 7pm to  
8:30pm

Presenter: Joe Whalen, Executive Director and Co-founder of Fresh Coast Alliance

Zoom: 845-5531-9386

Passcode: 996407

This program is designed for the people who want more information on how to talk and help people with addictions and/or in recovery. It is for those who want to know how our spirituality can help us help others. Join us. Open to the public.

Sponsored by Muskegon County Cooperating Churches



### Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

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Holocaust Remembrance Event  
Sunday, March 21, 3:30 pm  
Virtual Presentation



Irene Miller is a Holocaust survivor. Her book, 'Into No Man's Land', speaks of her survival journey from Poland to no man's land where Jews from Poland fled towards Soviet-occupied Poland in 1939-40 where she spent the winter under an open sky. With the outbreak of the German invasion of the Soviet Union, her journey continued to a Siberian labor camp where the bears come to your door front. She will talk about her journey to Uzbekistan where she lived will on boiled grass or broiled onions, and shivered with malaria, and the years in orphanages.

. There has not much written about the Nazis in the Soviet Union or of Stalin's treatment of Jews. Irene Miller survived and built a life of hope, loving, and caring. She will share her harrowing and miraculous survival in her talk.

A link for making reservations will be posted here by March 8:

Facebook page - [https://www.facebook.com/Center-for-Holocaust-and-Genocide-Studies-395630307200537/?view\\_public\\_for=395630307200537](https://www.facebook.com/Center-for-Holocaust-and-Genocide-Studies-395630307200537/?view_public_for=395630307200537)

Muskegon Community College - <https://www.muskegoncc.edu/center-for-holocaust-and-genocide-studies>

CHGS webpage - <http://chgs-muskegon.com/>

There will be a cut off date for reservations.





Hey all,

We have a conflict on Zoom this week for our Family, Community & Non-profit round table discussion. Also, because we've had lower attendance these last few months, we have decided to move to a quarterly meeting.

The next virtual round table will be April 15 9am-10am. It is a recurring event, so you should already have the zoom link in your calendars. I'll also send the link in a reminder email the week of our April meeting.

IN THE MEANTIME:

**Please join us every first and third Fridays for Member Connect on Zoom.** This is a great way to meet other business/community leaders, learn more about their products and services, share about your organizations and gain referrals for help and service.

Click this link to preregister for this FRIDAY:

[Member Connect on Zoom, February 19, 9-10am](#)

**Interested in expanding your knowledge about racial injustice and white privilege? Here is a place to start with the following reads:**

How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

White Fragility by Robin Diangelo

So, You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

Me and White Supremacy by Layla F. Saad

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi

I'm Still Here. Black Dignity in a Word Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown

Caste. The Origins of our Discontent by Isabel Wilkerson

The Trouble I've Seen. The Changing Way the Church Views Racism by Drew G.I. Hart

Waking up White by Debby Irving

Good White Racist? by Kerry Connelly

**THANK YOU!**  
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We would not exist without your generous support. Contributions have been received during the last 2 months from the following individuals, churches and organizations.

Church of God Muskegon

William Boelkins

Joseph Singerling

Forest Park Covenant Church

Barbara Davis

Thomas Tuori

Lake Harbor United Methodist

Randy & Evelyn Kunish

Donald & Marianne Swick

Mt. Zion, COGIC

William Paulson

Phyllis Wahlberg

New Bethel Baptist Church

Bill Page

Nancy Waters

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Gary & Mary Silvis

Community Foundation